



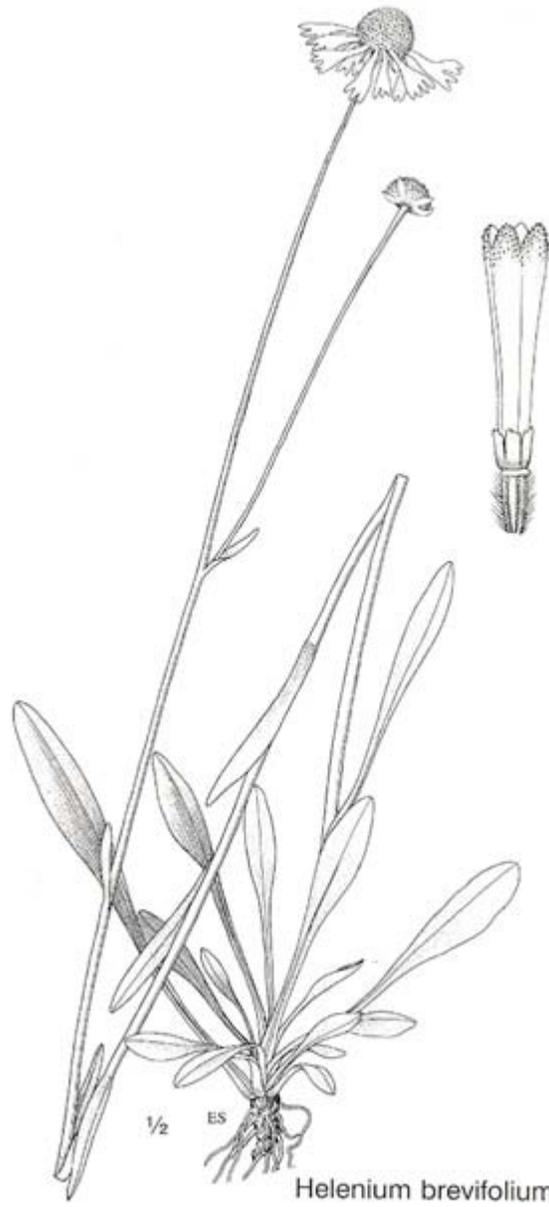
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Helenium brevifolium (Nutt.) Wood
Shortleaf Sneezeweed, Shortleaf Bitterweed

Identification: Perennial, 3-8 dm tall. Stem winged, commonly purple throughout, sometimes only near the base, usually solitary from a short basal crown sometimes bearing a single, terminal head, usually corymbose, 2-6 branched, each branch relatively long, erect and bearing a single head; stem glabrous below, lower portions of the stalks of the heads thinly cottony-pubescent, the pubescence usually gradually more dense upwardly, each stalk naked or 1 or 2-bracteate. Rosette leaves commonly present during the flowering period, with oblanceolate bladed portions narrowed proximally to winged petioles, blunt to rounded apically, margins entire or undulate, surfaces glabrous, often suffused with purple, those of some rosettes 2-3 cm long overall and about 2 cm broad distally, those of others varying to 12-15 cm long overall and about and little if any broader; other leaves reduced, widely spaced, sessile, oblanceolate, to narrowly oblong; uppermost stem and bracteal leaves usually thinly cottony-pubescent. Ray flowers pistillate, ligules yellow, on most plants broadly cuneate, 7-15 mm broad distally, with 3-5 obtuse teeth (on occasional plants, ligules oblanceolate and not toothed and strongly bifid distally), usually pubescent and atomiferous-glandular beneath, sometimes above as well. Disk flowers hemispheric, 1.5-2.5 cm broad; disc corollas with yellowish atomiferous-glandular tubes and with 5 minute-deltoid, glandular pubescent, red-purple to red-brown lobes. Achene 1-1.5 mm long, light brown, with low, rounded ribs, appressed-pubescent on the ribs and atomiferous-glandular on and between the ribs; pappus scales 5-10, short oblong to obovate, obtuse to rounded apically.

Key ID characters:

- Stem winged, usually purple throughout.
- Ray flower ligules yellow, 7-15 mm broad distally, and pubescent and glandular beneath (sometimes glandular above).
- Disc flowers 5-lobed with lobes reddish-brown in color.
- Achene 1-1.5 mm long, with low rounded ribs, pubescent on the ribs and glandular on and between the ribs.



Helenium brevifolium

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Habitat: Bogs, boggy clearings, boggy stream banks, seepage slopes, generally where the soil is saturated or even with standing surface water.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Asteraceae (Compositae). There are 8 species of the genus *Helenium* known to occur in LA.

Status:

Wetland: OBL - Obligate Wetland

Global: G3G4 - Vulnerable - Apparently Secure

State: S1 - Critically Imperiled



Eastern Hillside Seepage Bog

Range: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Soils: Highly developed organic layers, or peats.

Similar Species: There are only about 8 taxa of *Helenium* present in LA, making it fairly easy to distinguish between them. *H. amarum* is by far the most commonly distributed of the genus, and would therefore be most likely found. However, *H. flexuosum* and *H. campestre* are most likely to be confused with *H. brevifolium*, because they all tend to have disc flowers with reddish brown lobes. Moreover, in *H. flexuosum*, the disc corollas are predominantly 4-lobed and in *H. campestre* (although the disc corolla is 5-lobed like in *H. brevifolium*), the basal and lower stem leaves are pubescent. It should also be noted that *H. campestre* is only known in Bossier and Webster parishes and *H. flexuosum* is found throughout the state, including southeastern LA.



H. drummondii

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss and degradation.

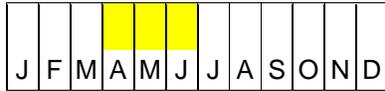
Known Distribution in Louisiana:

St Tammany, Tangipahoa

Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:

1977, 1987

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

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